Marine Safety Newsletter

US Coast Guard Marine Safety and Environmental Protection Directorate

EOW, Y2K Could Plague GPS Receivers

Besides the dreaded date of January 1, 2000 (Y2K), users of the Global Positioning System (GPS)—the satellite-based system that allows consumers to use electronic receivers to determine their position—should be aware of another one: August 22, 1999, the "End-of-Week" (EOW) rollover.

The Department of Defense (DOD) says the date changes are unlikely to affect the operation of GPS satellites or DOD's ground control center. But individual GPS receivers that consumers use may be affected by the date change. This could have important safety implications.

The GPS EOW rollover occurs every 1,024 weeks—about once every 20 years. The GPS system calculates time by counting the number of weeks since Jan. 6, 1980 (the date GPS became operational), up to a maximum of 1,023 weeks. At midnight between August 21–22, 1999, the GPS week counter will roll back to zero weeks. This could present a problem for consumers who use older GPS receivers and related applications. That's because after Aug. 21, 1999, receivers could process satellite data incorrectly and display inaccurate information.

Consumers such as fishermen, recreational boaters and pilots, hikers, campers, and hunters who depend on GPS for geographic locations at sea, on land, or in the air may experience one of the following problems with their receiver:

Some receivers may appear to be working but display inaccurate positions, times, or dates. Some receivers may think it is 1980 again and look in the wrong places for satellites, thus taking more time than usual to display information to the user. Some receivers may not be able to find the satellites at all, resulting in the units not working.

If you use GPS, check with your receiver manufacturer to find out if your receiver and applications are EOW rollover- and Y2K-compliant. Be sure to check the Coast Guard Navigation Center's web site at www.navcen. uscg.mil/gps/geninfo/y2k/default.htm, where the Department of Transportation has posted a list of receiver manufacturers and contacts. You can also call the free Y2K consumer hotline (1-888-USA-4-Y2K) for manufacturer contact information. You will need to tell the manufacturer your receiver's model, serial number, and the firmware version or release date displayed on the startup screen.

Inside:

- 2 Port of Oakland to Require Ballast Water Exchange at Sea
- **3** Y2K Reporting Requirements
- 3 What's New on the World Wide Web
- 4 IMO Corner
- **6** Prevention Through People
- 9 G-M Studies
- **9** G-M Regulatory Projects
- 14 NFPA Fire Safety Standards
- 15 Calendar of Events

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The Marine Safety Newsletter is published by the USCG Marine Safety and Environmental Protection Directorate to collect and disseminate information of general interest to the maritime community. The monthly newsletter prints abstracts of major USCG rulemakings, studies, special projects, and related events. Articles from non-Coast Guard sources may not represent USCG policy or views.

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To receive the Newsletter monthly or to submit material for consideration, address requests to: Marine Safety Newsletter Editor, National Maritime Center, 4200 Wilson Blvd., Suite 510, Arlington, VA 22203-1804, Tel: (202) 493-1056, Fax: (202) 493-1065.

July 1999

News



Port of Oakland to Require Ballast Water Exchange at Sea

The Port of Oakland, the 24th largest container port in the world, adopted an ordinance on June 15 requiring vessels calling on port facilities to conduct ballast water exchange at sea to help reduce the risk of introducing non-indigenous species into the San Francisco Bay and Delta. The ordinance goes into effect August 1, 1999, beating both IMO and the Coast Guard to the punch.

The ordinance was adopted because the Port recognizes that the introduction of exotic species into the bay through ballast water discharge is a serious environmental issue.

To date, some 230 non-native plant and animal species, including the Asian clam, have been introduced into the San Francisco Bay and Delta. Some of these species may have been introduced through the

discharge of ballast water from foreign ports.

If you've made it this far, you've noticed that the *Marine Safety Newsletter* has been totally redesigned. The main goals of this redesign were to make the newsletter easier to read and more pleasing to the eye for you, the reader. Have we succeeded? Do you like it? We want to know. Please email suggestions and comments, good or bad, to jpeak@ballston.uscg.mil or fax (202) 493-1065.

"The Port understands the serious nature of this problem and intends to do whatever is feasible to minimize the possibility of introducing ballast-borne species into the fragile Bay ecosystem," commented John Loh, president of the Board

of Port Commissioners. "While we are committed to supporting and participating in regional, state-wide, and national efforts to address this issue, we have also considered the impact this ordinance has on vessel and personnel safety, and the economic viability of Port operations."

The ordinance allows exemptions from this requirement when conditions exist that would make such an exchange hazardous to the vessel or its crew, or when the water to be discharged originated from locations along North America's Pacific coast. The ordinance will require reporting of ballast water practices similar to the reporting requirements of the Coast Guard.

The ordinance is modeled after an order adopted by the Port of Vancouver and was developed as mitigation for developing the Port of Oakland's new berths. The ballast water ordinance will apply to all vessels calling at existing and future Port terminal facilities. Thus the mitigation

measure will reduce the probability of non-indigenous species introductions for all Port operations.

The Port is also looking into other long-term solutions to the non-indigenous species issue. In cooperation with the California Association of Port Authorities, Pacific Merchant Shipping Association, the Western States Petroleum Association, and the Southern California Steamship Association, the port has sponsored a study that reviews existing information regarding the effectiveness and costs of ocean exchange. The study also identifies technological approaches to ballast water management that are in development.

Boating Impact Proceedings Online

Proceedings from a workshop on the Environmental Impacts of Boating are currently available in PDF format on the Internet. The workshop attempts to address the impacts of intensive boating on coastal waters. The proceedings contain valuable information on impacts associated with turbulence, toxins, and legislation surrounding boating and docks. A valuable bibliographic reference on boating effects, as well as a list of workshop attendees, is available in the report. To download a copy, go to: http://www.whoi.edu/coastalresearch/.

MERPAC Vacancies

The Coast Guard is seeking applications for appointment to membership on the Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee (MERPAC). MERPAC provides advice and makes recommendations to the Coast Guard on matters related to the training, qualification, licensing, certification, and fitness of seamen serving in the U.S. merchant marine.

You may request an application form by writing to Commandant (G-MSO-1), U.S. Coast Guard, 2100 Second Street, SW, Washington, DC 20593-0001; by calling (202) 267-0229; or by faxing (202) 267-4570. Submit application forms to the same address. This notice and the application form are available at http://dms.dot.gov.

Applicants with one or more of the following backgrounds are needed to fill five positions that become vacant in January 2000: A licensed deck officer; a shipping company employee in ship operation management; a licensed engineering officer; a marine educator associated with a training institution other than a federal or state maritime academy; and a member of the public.

Members serve a three-year term and the group meets twice a year. Applications must reach the Coast Guard on or before August 1, 1999.



Y2K Reporting Requirements for Vessels and Marine Facilities

Temporary regulations have been established to require owners and operators of certain vessels and marine facilities to report Y2K preparedness information to the Coast Guard via vessel and marine facility-specific Y2K questionnaires. Responses to the questionnaires will help Coast Guard Captains of the Port (COTPs) assess vessel and marine facility preparedness for potential Y2K-related malfunctions of equipment and systems (which could affect propulsion, boilers, auxiliary systems, power generation, position fixing navigation systems, communications, radar, steering systems, cargo systems, and bilge/ballast controls). This information will help COTPs identify potentially hazardous situations during peak Y2K risk periods, enabling them to take appropriate measures to promote port safety and environmental protection.

This temporary interim rule is effective on July

23, 1999, and expires on March 31, 2000. Vessel and marine facility representatives must submit completed Y2K preparedness questionnaires by August 1. The questionnaires can be found online at http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-m/y2kweb/startup.htm. Those wishing to send comments must send them to the Docket Management Facility (U.S. Department of Transportation, room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20590-0001, or fax to (202) 493-2251) by August 23.

The rule applies to all vessels owned in the United States and foreign flag vessels operating on waters subject to the jurisdiction of the U.S. between August 1, 1999 and March 31, 2000. The following vessels and facilities are exempt: Recreational boats under 46 U.S.C. 4301 *et seq.*; public vessels; uninspected commercial fishing vessels; uninspected barges; foreign flag vessels engaged in innocent passage; uninspected passenger vessels; and facilities directly operated by the Department of Defense or Department of the Interior.

For questions about this rule, call John Hannon, Project Manager, Office of Compliance, Commandant, Coast Guard, at (202) 267–1464.

WWW



http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-m/gmhome.htm

Advisory Committees—TSAC, MERPAC, NOSAC, NAVSAC, and NBSAC http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-m/advisory/index.htm

Y2K Risk Assessment and Mitigation-This page has been created to help implement the Coast Guard's policy for mitigating unsafe maritime transportation situations resulting from the year 2000 (Y2K) date change. The Coast Guard's policy includes the collection and assessment of all relevant information regarding Y2K readiness and other risk factors affecting maritime operations within each Captain of the Port (COTP) zone. The goal of this policy is to protect U.S. ports, the public, and the marine environment against the threat of Y2K-related accidents. While safety is the Coast Guard's primary concern, the policy has also been developed to minimize any disruptions to port operations and maritime commerce caused by measures to prevent or respond to Y2K-related problems.

http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-m/y2kweb/startup.htm

Marine Transportation System

http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-m/mts/index.htm

NVIC 6-99 - Plan Review, Inspection, and Certification Guidance for Vessels Built to the International Code of Safety for High-Speed Craft and Additional Information Regarding Non-Code High-Speed Vessels http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-m/nvic/6_99/n6-99.pdf

Approved Courses

http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-m/marpers/examques/achome.htm

Public Addresses

http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-m/nmc/gendoc/gendocs.htm#public





Report of the 71st Session of the Maritime Safety Committee

The International Maritime Organization's Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) held its 71st session May 19–28 in London under the chairmanship of Dr. G. Pattofatto of Italy. Eighty-eight member states, two associate members, three United Nations specialized agencies, five intergovernmental organizations, and 29 nongovernmental organizations participated. All U.S. objectives were achieved. MSC 71 had several major accomplishments.

- Unanimous adoption of amendments to the international convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) to make the Irradiated Nuclear Fuel (INF) Code mandatory. In addition to irradiated nuclear fuel, this will cover plutonium and high-level radioactive wastes. The INF Code applies to all ships regardless of the date of construction and size, including cargo ships of less than 500 gross tonnage, engaged in the carriage of INF cargo. The INF Code does not apply to warships, naval auxiliary, or other ships used only on government non-commercial service, although administrations are expected to ensure such ships are in compliance with the code. Specific regulations in the code cover a number of issues, including damage stability, fire protection, temperature control of cargo spaces, structural consideration, cargo securing arrangements, electrical supplies, radiological protection equipment, and management, training, and shipboard emergency plans.
- Agreement with the U.S. proposal to limit the scope of work on the polar code. These limits include the development of recommendatory guidelines for dissemination as an MSC circular, review of areas north of 60 degrees north that are icefree, exclusion of antarctic waters, removal of the provision for prior notification, and inclusion of only those provisions that are additional to existing SOLAS requirements.
- Agreement to discontinue discussions on all aspects of navigation in the Turkish Straits. A working group on the routing of ships met during the committee meeting and concluded that there are no changes to the rules that would make a definitive contribution to the safety of navigation in the Straits. Turkey stated that it would inform IMO of any developments in the establishment of Vessel Traffic Services in the Straits, the provision of pi-

lotage services, and further efforts to enhance the safety of navigation and environmental protection.

- Approval of a draft assembly resolution on fraudulent certificates of competency for seafarers. The proposed resolution on unlawful practices associated with certificates of competency and endorsements was drafted following concern about a proliferation of fraudulent certificates, many of which have been discovered during inspections. The proposal urges relevant parties to report any cases or suspected cases of fraudulent certificates. It also calls for member governments to investigate and prosecute those found to be involved in the use or obtainment of fraudulent certificates.
- Approval of revisions to the guidelines to combat piracy and armed robbery against ships. The revisions include enhancing command and control procedures when coordinating interagency responses to acts of piracy or armed robbery against ships as well as developing regional agreements to coordinate transnational responses to incidents.
- · Approval of a number of actions to improve bulk carrier safety. These actions include approval of a uniform method of measuring the density of bulk cargoes, an interpretation on the definition of single-side skin construction of bulk carriers, and agreement on certification of bulk carriers.
- Decision to retain the Intersessional Correspondence Group on Fatigue under the coordination of the United States. The Group has been tasked with developing a document to give practical guidance to all parties who may be affected by fatigue (seafarers, officers, masters, naval architects, ship designers, owners/operators/managers, and training institutions). In addition, the Coast Guard is leading a working group that will develop the United States' contribution to this guidance document.

If you would like more information or are interested in participating in drafting the guidelines please contact: Mr. William Abernathy, United States Coast Guard (G-MSE-1), Tel.: (202) 267-0864; Fax: (202) 267-4816; wabernathy@comdt.uscg.mil.

- Endorsement of an IMO circular, which was initiated by the U.S., on the Year 2000 problem.
- Agreement with the U.S. proposal that it was premature to make the International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code mandatory.
- · Approval of a draft assembly resolution on assessment of flag state performance.
- Approval of a draft assembly resolution on principles of safe manning.
- · Consideration on the reports of seven subcommittees.

The International Maritime Organization Corner better informs the maritime community about the vital work conducted through this international organization. The IMO Corner will present highlights of recently completed meetings, a calendar of IMO meetings, as well as a listing of supporting U.S. SOLAS Working Group meetings.





IMO Circulars Now Available Online

IMO has added an expanded selection of IMO circulars to their Web site at www.imo.org/imo/circs/intro.htm. They have added all the circulars that were issued after the December 1998 meeting of the Marine Safety Committee.

The circulars cover such subjects as the implementation of the ISM Code, guidelines for safe ocean towing and self-assessment of flag State performance, and guidelines for the on-board use and application of computers.

FAQs about IMO

Ever wonder what IMO is and what it does? Here are some frequently asked questions, and their answers.

What exactly is IMO?

IMO is a specialized agency of the United Nations which is responsible for measures to improve the safety of international shipping and to prevent marine pollution from ships. It also is involved in legal matters, including liability and compensation issues and the facilitation of international maritime traffic. It was established by means of a Convention adopted under the auspices of the United Nations in Geneva on March 17, 1948 and met for the first time in January 1959. It currently has 157 Member States. IMO's governing body is the Assembly, which is made up

of all 157 Member States and meets normally once every two years. The Council acts as the governing body in between Assembly sessions. The main technical work is carried out by the Maritime Safety, Marine Environment Protection, Legal, Technical Co-operation and Facilitation Committees, and a number of subcommittees.

What does IMO do?

When IMO first began operations its chief concern was to develop international treaties and other legislation concerning safety and marine pollution prevention. By the late 1970s this work was largely completed. After that IMO concentrated on keeping legislation up to date and ensuring that it is ratified by as many countries as possible. This has been so successful that many Conventions now apply to more than 98% of world merchant shipping tonnage. Currently the emphasis is on ensuring that these conventions and other treaties are properly implemented by the countries that have accepted them.

Why do we need an international organization to look after shipping?

Because shipping is an international industry. If each nation developed its own safety legislation the result would be a maze of differing, often conflicting national laws. One nation, for example, might insist on lifeboats being made of steel and another of glass-reinforced plastic. Some nations might insist on very high safety standards while others might be more lax, acting as havens for sub-standard shipping.

UPCOMING IMO MEETINGS

(COMSAR)-4th session

September 6-10 Facilitation Committee—27th session

September 20-24 Subcommittee on Safety of Navigation (NAV)—45th session

October 4-8 21st Consultative Meeting of Contracting Parties to the

London Convention 1972

October 11-15 Legal Committee—80th session

October 18-22 IOPC Funds—92 Fund Assembly, 71 Fund Assembly, 92 Fund Executive

Committee, 71 Fund Executive Committee

November 12* Council—20th extraordinary session

November 15-26* Assembly—21st session

November 26* Council—83rd session

December 6-10* 21st Consultative Meeting of Contracting Parties to the

London Convention 1972

^{*} Tentative



Five Steps of the Formal Safety Assessment

Many people have been wondering recently about the acronym FSA. But what does it stand for and what is it? FSA stands for Formal Safety Assessment. According to the International Maritime Organization's (IMO) joint MSC/MEPC Circular (MSC/Circ. 829 and MEPC/Circ. 335) issued in November 1997, the FSA is "...a rational and systematic process for assessing the risks associated with shipping activity and for evaluating the costs and benefits of IMO's options for reducing risks." It is a tool intended to increase the safety of a shipping operation by balancing the various technical and operational issues, including the human element, safety, and costs.

How can the FSA balance all of these factors? Once a problem is defined, the joint MSC/MEPC Circular outlines guidelines for applying the Formal Safety Assessment. There are five steps in the process:

- 1. Identification of hazards;
- 2. Risk assessment:
- 3. Risk control options;
- 4. Cost benefit assignment, and
- 5. Recommendations for decision making.

Identification of hazards

First, hazards are identified by a group of appropriate subject matter experts and people familiar with the problem. They prioritize the hazards and list the potential results if the hazards are not addressed.

Risk assessment

For the second step, the group is then asked

to look at the different types of accidents that could occur and develop models that will show where these accidents could be prevented. The circular suggests using a risk contribution tree to show how the risk is distributed among the accidents and their component parts.

Risk control options

The third step requires the group to look at the potential risk control measures. These include anything that can be done to reduce the risk. The group develops a list of control measures, regulatory and non-regulatory actions that the IMO can take to minimize risks. Approaches for developing risk control options are also listed in the joint circular.

Cost benefit assignment

The fourth step is a cost-benefit assessment. The group looks at the risks and the risk control options. They then estimate the costs and benefits for all of these options. This process is used to screen out risk control options which may not be cost effective or are simply impractical.

Recommendations for decision making

The final step is the development of recommendations for decision-making by the broader committees of IMO, and the presentation of the results in a standard format.

The FSA Circular has been applied on a trial basis to examine high-speed catamaran ferry operations and requirements for helicopter landing areas on cruise ships.

We hope that the FSA process will be a useful tool to help determine when there is in fact a compelling need for a new regulation. FSA will also aid in determining better solutions for identifying hazards, potential consequences and the best human/system interventions to prevent hazards from becoming accidents.

PRINCIPLES

- Take a Quality Approach
- Honor the Mariner
- Seek Non-Regulatory Solutions
- Share Commitment
- Manage Risk

VISION

To achieve the world's safest, most environmentally sound and cost-effective marine operations by emphasizing the role of people in preventing casualties and pollution.

GOALS

- Know More
- Train More
- Do More
- Offer More
- Cooperate More

Contact us directly with your PTP story:

Commandant (G-MSE-1), U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, 2100 Second Street, SW, Washington, DC 20593-0001; (202) 267-2997; (202) 267-4816 Fax; e-mail: fldr-he@comdt.uscg.mil



The following is a list of G-M studies and reports under development, including their status and contact person. The *Marine Safety Newsletter* will update this listing as new information is received. Small business interests needing assistance in understanding the information may telephone the contacts identified for the study or report.

Research in Tanker Groundings

This non-mandated study is being conducted by the Coast Guard to study the structural behavior of tankers during groundings.

STATUS: Research is being conducted at MIT. The first phase of the study is complete, and the second phase is underway. Availability of the study report will be announced through the *Marine Safety Newsletter*.

CONTACT: Mr. Sirkar, Tel.: (202) 267-6925

Port Access Routes Study; Strait of Juan de Fuca and Adjacent Waters

The Coast Guard is conducting a study of port-access routes to evaluate the continued applicability of and the need for modifications to current vessel routing measures in and around the Strait of Juan de Fuca and adjacent waters, including Admiralty Inlet, Rosario Strait, Haro Strait, Boundary Pass, and the Strait of Georgia. The goal of the study is to help reduce the risk of marine casualties and increase vessel traffic management efficiency in the study area. The recommendations of the study may lead to future rulemaking or appropriate international agreements.

STATUS: Notice; request for comments (USCG-1999-4974) published on January 20, 1999 (64 FR 3145). Notice of meeting; extension of comment period published on April 15, 1999 (64 FR 18651). Comment period closed on May 31, 1999. Public meeting was held on May 12 in Seattle.

CONTACT: John Mikesell, Tel.: (206) 220-7272 or Barbara Marx,

Tel.: (202) 267-0574

Port Access Routes Study for Approaches to Los Angeles and Long Beach

The Coast Guard is conducting a study of port-access routes for the approaches to Los Angeles and Long Beach. The study will evaluate potential effects of recent port improvement projects on navigational safety and vessel traffic management efficiency in the study area and may recommend changes to existing vessel routing measures. The recommendations of the study may lead to future rulemaking. Status: Request for comments (USCG-1999-5198) published on March 11, 1999 (64 FR 12139). Comment period closed on May 10, 1999.

CONTACT: Mike VanHouten, Tel.: (510) 437-2968

Watchkeeping Alertness in Towing Operations

Conducted by Battelle Seattle Research Center under contract to R&DC. Objectives for this include understanding factors which affect alertness in towing vessel crews. The research team has collected data on line boats and harbor tugs in the lower Mississippi and Ohio Rivers. Companies have participated in the study by offering their crews as test subjects on a voluntary basis. Voluntary participation has been outstanding, approaching 100 percent of solicited crewmembers.

STATUS: The analysis of data is nearly complete. The next phase of the project, development and testing of fatigue countermeasures, should be completed near the end of 2000.

CONTACT: Dr. Carlos Comperatore, Tel.: (860) 441-2751

Improving Crew Alertness on Commercial Vessels

This project will identify the incidence of fatigue in deep draft vessel crews and develop crew endurance plans to mitigate fatigue. Data has been collected from the crew of a tank vessel, and will be used to develop fatigue countermeasures. The deliverable for this project will be a Professional Mariner's Crew Endurance Handbook.

STATUS: Data has been collected, and analysis is in progress. The project is planned to conclude in early 2000 following development and testing of fatigue countermeasures.

CONTACT: Dr. Carlos Comperatore, Tel.: (860) 441-2751

Prince William Sound Notice of Study Results

The Port Access Route Study looked into vessel transit safety and recommended some changes to the traffic lane separation scheme (TSS) in the vicinity of Prince William Sound (PWS), AK. The changes were recommended only to the approach routes used by vessels in the voluntary TSS. This study was conducted as a result of a PWS Risk Assessment Steering Committee report regarding oil shipping risk within the sound. USCG MSO Valdez completed the study on March 4, 1999. The Notice of Study was released in the Federal Register on February 9, 1998 (63 FR 6502).

STATUS: Drafting the Federal Register notice.

CONTACT: LT Michael Dreier, Tel.: (202) 267-6490



The following is a list of select G-M regulatory projects including their status and point of contact information. For more information on these and other marine safety rulemaking projects, visit the G-M Regulations home page at http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-m/regs/reghome.html.

If you are a small business interest needing assistance in understanding and complying with the regulatory requirements, please telephone the applicable contacts listed below. The Small Business and Agriculture Regulatory Enforcement Ombudsman and ten Regional Fairness Boards were established to receive comments from small businesses about federal agency enforcement actions. The Ombudsman will annually evaluate the enforcement activities and rate each agency's responsiveness to small business. If you wish to comment on the enforcement actions of the Coast Guard, call (888) REG-FAIR (734-3247).

CDG 89-050 Vessel Identification System

This rulemaking establishes a Vessel Identification System (VIS) and will prescribe the manner and form for participating States to make information available for VIS; establish guidelines for State vessel titling systems; and establish procedures for certifying compliance with those guidelines. On April 19, 1999 (64 FR 19039), the Coast Guard published a notice delaying the effective date of subpart D until October 24, 1999.

STATUS: IFR published on April 25, 1995 (60 FR 20310). SNPRM being drafted. Contact: LCDR Nancy Goodridge, Tel.: (202) 267–0254

USCG 1999-5705 Facility Response Plans: Hazardous Substances

This rulemaking would require owners or operators of onshore marine transportation-related facilities to submit a response plan for worst case discharges of hazardous substances.

STATUS: ANPRM published in 61 FR 20084. Comment period closed September 3, 1996. Proposed regulations are in clearance.

CONTACT: LT Michael Roldan, Tel.: (202) 267-0106, Fax: (202) 267-4547

CDG 94-055 Licensing and Manning for Operators of Towing Vessels

This rulemaking would revise the requirements for licensing those individuals operating towing vessels. It would institute new licenses with levels of qualification and with enhanced training and operating experience. Further, it would require all towing vessels to be manned by officers holding licenses specifically authorizing such service. It is based on the investigation of a collision of a tug and barge with a railroad bridge, near Mobile, AL, in September 1993, which caused 47 deaths. The casualty prompted the Coast Guard's report, "Review of Marine Safety Issues Related to Uninspected Towing Vessels." Some of the recommendations contained in the review are incorporated into this rulemaking.

STATUS: NPRM was published on June 19, 1996 (61 FR 31332). SNPRM was published on October 27, 1997 (61 FR 31332). Four public meetings were held in February 1998. The comment period closed February 24, 1998. Interim Rule being drafted.

Contact: Mr. Jerry Miante, Tel.: (202) 267-0221

USCG 1997-2799 User Fees for Licenses, Certificates of Registry, and Merchant Mariner Documents

This project would revise user fees for Coast Guard services relating to the issuance of merchant mariner licenses, certificates of registry, and merchant mariner documents. The proposed revisions are based on the most recent recalculation of program costs associated with mariner documentation services. This is the first proposed revision of these user fees since they were established in the final rule published on March 19, 1993 (59 FR 15228). That final rule became effective on April 19, 1993. The Coast Guard is also proposing to reformat the two CFR sections in which the fees are published from narrative text into a more user–friendly table.

STATUS: NPRM published on April 1, 1998 (63 FR 16024). The comment period closed September 28, 1998. Final rule in clearance.

CONTACT: CDR Mark McEwen, Tel.: (202) 267-1409



USCG 1997-3198 Alternate Convention Tonnage

The Coast Guard is considering developing alternate tonnage thresholds for certain vessels based on the measurement system established under the International Convention on Tonnage Measurement of Ships, 1969. Existing tonnage thresholds in domestic laws and regulations are based on the U.S. regulatory measurement system. Establishing the international convention tonnage as an option for applying domestic regulations may result in the building of safer, more efficient vessels and may enable designers and operators of U.S. vessels to be more competitive in the international market. The Coast Guard asks for comments on related issues and questions.

STATUS: Notice and request for comments published on February 4, 1998 (63 FR 5767). Comment period closed October 15, 1998. Preparing proposed rule.

CONTACT: Mr. Peter Eareckson, Tel.: (202) 366-6502

USCG 1998-3423 Implementation of the National Invasive Species Act of 1996 (NISA) To comply with the National Invasive Species Act of 1996 (NISA), the Coast Guard establishes both regulations and voluntary guidelines to control the invasion of aquatic nuisance species (ANS). Ballast water from ships is one of the largest pathways for the intercontinental introduction and spread of ANS. This rule amends existing regulations for the Great Lakes ecosystem, establishes voluntary ballast water management guidelines for all other waters of the United States, and establishes mandatory reporting for nearly all vessels entering waters of the United States.

STATUS: Interim rule with request for comments published on May 17, 1999 (64 FR 26672). Effective date is July 1, 1999. Comments and related material must reach the Docket Management Facility on or before July 16, 1999.

CONTACT: LT Pat McKeown, Tel.: (202) 267–0500

USCG 1998-3786 Commercial Diving Operations The Coast Guard requested comments on the type and scope of needed revisions to the commercial diving operations regulations. The regulations are over 20 years old and do not include current safety and technology standards and industry practices. At this early stage of the rulemaking process we need information on current safety practices, diving technology, and industry standards to help us identify the scope of any necessary regulatory revisions.

STATUS: ANPRM published on June 26, 1998 (63 FR 34840). Comment period closed on November 9, 1998.

CONTACT: LT Diane Kalina, Tel.: (202) 267-1181

USCG 1998-3798 Numbering of Undocumented Barges The Coast Guard seeks public comments on establishing a statutorily required numbering system for operating undocumented barges more than 100 gross tons. The numbering of these barges would increase owner accountability and deter their abandonment, making fewer barges available for disposal of oil and hazardous substances.

STATUS: ANPRM published on July 6, 1998 (63 FR 36384). Comment period closed on November 3, 1998.

CONTACT: Mr. Thomas Willis, Director, National Vessel Documentation Center, Tel.: (304) 271-2506

G-M Regulatory Projects

USCG 1998-4302
Handling of Class
I (Explosive) Material or Other
Dangerous
Cargoes within
or Contiguous
to Waterfront
Facilities

This rulemaking will revise the regulations covering waterfront facilities handling dangerous cargoes. Current regulations would be updated to reflect improved safety procedures and modern transportation methods, such as the use of containers. This proposed rule would also update the requirements for the handling of these dangerous cargoes and incorporate industry standards.

STATUS: NPRM published on October 29, 1998 (63 FR 57964). Comment period closed March 1, 1999. Final Rule being drafted.

CONTACT: LT Charles Srioudom, Tel.: (202) 267-2498

USCG 1998-4354 Tank Vessel Response Plans for Hazardous Substances The Coast Guard proposes regulations that would require response plans for certain tank vessels operating on the navigable waters of the United States that could reasonably be expected to cause substantial or significant and substantial harm to the environment by discharging a hazardous substance. These regulations are mandated by the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA 90), which requires the President to issue regulations requiring the preparation of hazardous substance response plans. The primary purpose of requiring response plans is to minimize the impact of a discharge of hazardous substances into the navigable waters of the United States.

STATUS: NPRM published March 22, 1999 (64 FR 13734). Comments due Aug. 30, 1999. Public meeting to be held Aug. 12 and 13 in Houston (64 FR 31994).

CONTACT: LT Michael Roldan, Tel.: (202) 267-0106

USCG 1998-4399 Automatic Identification System Carriage Requirement; Vessel Traffic Service Lower Mississippi River The Coast Guard held a public meeting in New Orleans to solicit comments on the establishment of a new Vessel Traffic Service (VTS) in the Lower Mississippi River area and a potential Automatic Identification System (AIS) carriage requirement for certain vessels operating in the new VTS area. We are currently reviewing public input to help develop a proposed rule.

STATUS: Public meeting held on October 28, 1998. NPRM being drafted.

CONTACT: Mr. Ed LaRue, Tel.: (202) 267-0416

USCG 1998-4443 Emergency Control Measures for Tank Barges This interim rule implements measures for maintaining or regaining control of a tank barge that will reduce the likelihood of a tank barge's grounding and spilling its cargo. These measures are necessary because without them a tug that loses its tow lacks ready means for regaining control of it.

STATUS: Interim rule (IR) with request for comment published on December 30, 1998 (63 FR 71754). The IR is effective March 30, 1999 except for 33 CFR 155.230(b)(1) and 46 CFR 32.15–15(e), which are effective on December 11, 2000. Notice of meeting; reopening of comment period published on April 15, 1999 (64 FR 18576). Comment period extended until June 10, 1999. Public meeting held in Washington, DC on May 12, 1999.

CONTACT: Mr. Robert Spears, Tel.: (202) 267-1099; or Mr. Allen Penn, Tel.: (202) 267-2997

USCG 1999-5040 Safety of Uninspected Passenger Vessels under the Passenger Vessel Safety Act of 1993 The Coast Guard will propose regulations that implement safety measures for uninspected passenger vessels under the Passenger Vessel Safety Act of 1993 (PVSA). These regulations will implement the new class of uninspected passenger vessel of at least 100 gross tons, address the confusion regarding bareboat charters, provide for the issuance of special permits to certain uninspected passenger vessels, and develop specific manning, structural fire protection, operating, and equipment requirements for a limited fleet of PVSA exempted vessels.

STATUS: ANPRM published on April 1, 1999 (64 FR 15709). Comment period closed on June 30, 1999.

CONTACT: Mr. James Cratty, Tel.: (202) 267-6742.



USCG 1998-4501 Improvements to Marine Safety in Puget Sound-Area Waters The Coast Guard seeks public comment on potential rules that would improve marine safety in Puget Sound-area waters including Puget Sound, the Strait of Juan de Fuca, passages around and through the San Juan Islands, and the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. Based on a recent determination by the Secretary of Transportation regarding the status of marine safety in the Puget Sound-area, the Coast Guard has begun a comprehensive cost-benefit analysis to study the feasibility of implementing new safety measures, including extended tug escort requirements for certain vessels and a dedicated pre-positioned rescue vessel. Public input will help focus the cost-benefit analysis and help us develop any future proposed rules that may be necessary.

STATUS: ANPRM was published November 24, 1998 (63 FR 64937). Comment period closed on May 24, 1999.

USCG 1998-4623 Limited Service Domestic Load Lines for River Barges on Lake Michigan This rulemaking incorporates into 46 CFR part 45 the present load line exemption routes that have been announced in Federal Register notices for unmanned dry cargo barges carrying nonhazardous cargoes on river barges operating on Lake Michigan between Chicago, IL and Milwaukee, WI; and Chicago and Muskegon, MI.

STATUS: The notices were published on September 21, 1992 (57 FR 43479), March 31, 1995 (60 FR 16693), September 28, 1995 (60 FR 50234), and August 26, 1996 (61 FR 43804). NPRM was published on November 2, 1998 (63 FR 58679). Comment period extended on December 28, 1998 (63 FR 71411). Comment period closed on March 4, 1999. Final rule being drafted.

CONTACT: Mr. Thomas Jordan, Project Manager, Tel.: (202) 267-0142

USCG 1999-5525 Mandatory Ship Reporting Systems The Coast Guard is implementing two mandatory ship reporting systems in an effort to reduce the threat of ship strikes to endangered northern right whales (also known as the North Atlantic right whale). Based on a proposal by the United States, the International Maritime Organization adopted a resolution to establish these systems. The mandatory ship reporting systems are designed to inform mariners of the presence of whales in certain areas, so that mariners travelling in those areas can take actions to avoid collisions with the whales.

STATUS: Interim rule with request for comments published on June 1, 1999. Comments and related materials must reach the Docket Management Facility on or before August 2, 1999.

CONTACT: Mr. Edward LaRue, Tel.: (202) 267-0416

USCG-1999-5700 Traffic Separation Schemes: Off San Francisco, in the Santa Barbara Channel, in the Approaches to Los Angeles-Long Beach, California The Coast Guard proposes amending the existing Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) off San Francisco and the TSS in the Santa Barbara Channel. The proposed amendments are adopted by the International Maritime Organization and have been validated by several recent vessel routing studies. Once implemented, the amended TSSs would route commercial vessels farther offshore, providing an extra margin of safety and environmental protection in the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary and adjacent waters. Additionally, this proposed rule would incorporate descriptions of these TSSs, as well as a description of the existing TSS in the approaches to Los Angeles–Long Beach, into the Code of Federal Regulations.

STATUS: NPRM published on June 17, 1999. Submit comments on or before August 16, 1999.

CONTACT: LCDR Brian Tetreault, Tel.: (510) 437-2951



The following is a list of National Fire Protection Association Safety Standards affecting the maritime community. Each Standard listed includes news and points of contact. This list will be updated as new information becomes available.

NFPA 12 Carbon Dioxide (CO₂)

The Coast Guard asked the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) to develop a section within NFPA 12 to address marine CO_2 systems. The committee has drafted a marine chapter (6), which is contained in the 1999 Request of Proposals (ROP), to be considered at the November 1999 annual meeting in New Orleans.

NFPA Point of Contact: Mark Conroy, (617) 984-7403

USCG POINT OF CONTACT: Klaus Wahle, G-MSE-4, (202) 267-0256

e-mail: kwahle@comdt.uscg.mil

NFPA 13 Automatic Sprinklers

The NFPA has completely revised NFPA 13 to address all aspects of automatic sprinkler system design. At their July 1997 meeting, NFPA Standards Council approved a new project to centralize all requirements pertaining to the design and installation of automatic sprinkler systems into NFPA 13. The new project called for the relocation of those portions of NFPA 24, NFPA 231, and NFPA 231C pertaining to sprinkler systems and fire mains into NFPA 13. Additionally, the project called for the review of all NFPA standards containing sprinkler system requirements to determine how they can best be centralized. The new 1999 edition of NFPA 13 should be available shortly.

NFPA POINT OF CONTACT: Milosh Puchovsky, (617) 984-7408

USCG POINT OF CONTACT: Randall Eberly, G-MSE-4, (202) 267-1444

e-mail: reberly@comdt.uscg.mil

NFPA 750 Standards on Water Mist Fire Protection Systems

The committee responsible for writing NFPA 750 met in May 1999 to take action on the previously submitted proposals for changes to the standard. The final list of amendments is currently being circulated among the committee members for balloting. Final consideration of the modified standard will occur at the Fall 1999 meeting in New Orleans.

NFPA Point of Contact: Christian Dubay, (617) 984-7435

USCG POINT OF CONTACT: Randall Eberly, G-MSE-4, (202) 267-1444

e-mail: reberly@comdt.uscg.mil

NFPA 1123 Code for Fireworks Display

The Coast Guard is working with the NFPA 1123 committee to develop a chapter addressing the safe conduct of outdoor fireworks aboard vessels and floating platforms. The committee met in March to discuss and respond to the public proposals including a draft chapter. The committee's responses to the public proposals were published in the May edition of the NFPA Report on Proposals (ROP). Members of the public, the marine community, the fire service, and the US Coast Guard are encouraged to submit comments on the committee's responses by October 8, 1999. The form is provided on the back of the standard or using NFPA's "Proposals On-Line" at www.nfpa.org under the Codes and Standards menu item. Within the ROP, a Tentative Interim Amendment (TIA) based on the draft marine chapter has been submitted. If passed, the TIA will establish a new marine chapter in the existing NFPA 1123 to provide guidance for both operators and enforcers of these types of fireworks displays. The Coast Guard is concurrently composing a Navigation and Vessel Inspection Circular (NVIC) to incorporate the TIA with other Coast Guard specific requirements. The committee will meet again in late fall.

NFPA Point of Contact: Guy Colonna, (617) 984-7435

USCG POINT OF CONTACT: Suzette Hartmann, G-MSE-4, (202) 267-0138

e-mail: shartmann@comdt.uscg.mil

NFPA 2001 Standards on Clean Agent Extinguishing Systems

The Coast Guard asked NFPA to develop a section within NFPA 2001 to address marine clean agent systems. At the December 1998 meeting the committee drafted a revised marine chapter (5) which incorporates recent ROP and Report on Comments (ROC) changes. The changes will be discussed at the July 1999 meeting in Halifax, Canada.

NFPA Point of Contact: Mark Conroy, (617) 984-7403

USCG POINT OF CONTACT: Klaus Wahle, G-MSE-4, (202) 267-0256

e-mail: kwahle@comdt.uscg.mil



Please note: Events without dates will no longer be published. Courses are not Coast Guard-approved unless otherwise stated. Course information is listed in the following order: Sponsor • Dates • Location • Contact.

* U.S. Coast Guard Approved Course.

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OIL SPILL MANAGEMENT FOR QIs and ICs

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HAZWOPER Refresher

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Due to the large number of submissions for the Calendar of Events Section, we will list all events that occur the month after publication and later in chronological order. Other events will be included, if space permits.

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